

REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 18-19 and 21-22 remain in the application. Claims 12 and 16 have been amended. Claims 17 and 20 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests for the allowance of each of pending claims 1-16, 18-19 and 21-22.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,873,685 to Chong (hereinafter referred to as "Chong").

The independent claim 1 of the application is directed to a telecommunication multi-service transport system that comprises at least one service card providing a predetermined telecommunication service, and at least one protection card for replacing the service card when the service card fails. The protection card comprises one or more test ports connectable to an external testing tool, one or more protection circuits, and at least one selection module associated with the test ports for allowing the testing tool to be connected to the protection circuits through at least one test port for testing the service card when the protection card is in a standby mode and for disconnecting the testing tool from the protection circuit when the service card fails.

A. Chong does not teach such protection card that replaces the service card when it fails.

Chong discloses a Digital Subscriber Line Access and Network Testing Multiplexer (DSLANTM) that incorporates built-in hardware and software for measuring and determining Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) network electrical

characteristics (see, col. 2, lines 38-42). The DSLANTM includes line cards, modem cards, and test and switching units that further include a Copper Loop Tester (CLT) for providing built-in electrical test, measurement, and characterization capability (see, FIG. 3, FIG. 5, and col. 8, lines 64-66). The CLT performs electrical tests or measurements in response to test commands (see, col. 10, lines 41-43). The CLT then writes the test results into a memory and ends the tests (see, col. 10, lines 48-54).

Nowhere in Chong mentions that the test and switching unit can be used to replace the line cards when they fail. The test and switching unit cannot reasonably replace the line card. The test and switching unit is constructed by the CLT, memory, power interface circuit, control logic and relay matrix for testing other electronic components in the DSLANTM (see, FIG. 5). The line card includes conventional signal coupling and electrical isolation circuit, and supports the DSLANTM with multiple communication ports (see, and col. 6, lines 23-32). The test and switching unit and the line card differ in their intended functions and constructions. Thus, the test and switching unit cannot be used to replace the line card when it fails.

B. Chong fails to teach such protection card that allows the testing tool to test the service card when the protection card is in a standby mode, and disconnects the testing tool from the protection circuit when the service card fails.

As discussed above, the CLT of the test and switching unit performs electrical tests and measurements in response to test commands, and then writes the test results into a memory (see, col. 10, lines 41-43 and col. 10, lines 48-54). Chong mentions neither that performing the tests and measurements is conditioned on when the test and

switching unit is in a standby mode, nor that the test and switching unit is disconnected from the external testing tool when the line card fails. Thus, Chong does not anticipate claim 1.

For the same reasons discussed above, the independent claims 7, 12 and 16 are not anticipated by Chong. Accordingly, claims 2, 5-6, 9-11, 14-15, and 19-22 that depend on claims 1, 7, 12 and 16 are patentable over the cited prior art reference under section 102 as well.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3-4, 8, 13 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chong in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/0076166 to Patenaude (hereinafter referred to as "Patenaude").

As discussed above with respect to Chong, the independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 16 are patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 3-4, 8, 13, and 18-19 that depend on claims 1, 7, 12 and 16 are, therefore, patentable under section 103 as well.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this application in an allowable form. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are drawn to novel subject matter, patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore, respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Should the Examiner deem that any further clarification is desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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